



# City of Glendora | City Hall

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November 9, 2022

The Honorable Ara Najarian  
Chair of the Board  
LA Metro  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

## **SUBJECT: URGING SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR FOOTHILL GOLD LINE**

Dear Chair Najarian and the Metro Board of Directors:

The City of Glendora is urging your support for allocating \$798,000,000 of TIRCP grant funds set aside for Southern California to complete the final segment of the Foothill Gold Line – a transformational regional project that was named a first priority project by the LA Metro Board in 2009; and is the top priority for the San Gabriel Valley’s Legislative Caucus representing 31 cities and more than two million people.

The Foothill Gold Line is the only project in the region that is truly shovel ready and can start creating an estimated 5,500 jobs, \$860,000,000 in economic output, \$345,000,000 in labor income and \$13,000,000 in tax revenue right away during construction. Once completed, it will expand transit opportunities for millions of California residents, workers, students and visitors from Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties - extending zero-emission light rail service through one of the most congested and smoggiest corridors in the nation. The project is 100% within or adjacent to Equity Focus Communities.

Since being named a Metro Board first priority project in the 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan, the Foothill Gold Line has been environmentally cleared, completed extensive design and was readied for construction. At this time, the westernmost 9.1-mile, four-station segment of the project is under construction. It is on budget and on schedule to be completed in just over two years (January 2025). The current TIRCP grant request will fund the final 3.2-mile, two-station segment that was unable to be completed with the current construction due to funding constraints. This last segment of the project is truly shovel-ready and can be completed within five years of funding.

Completing the final segment of the Foothill Gold Line has an unmatched coalition of support at all levels - community, local, state and federal; and affords significant benefits for the region and the State. Benefits of completing the last two stations in Claremont and Montclair alone include:

- **Eliminating nearly 15,000 car trips each day opening year;** adding 7,700 weekday boardings to the transit system
- **Reducing 26.7 million vehicle miles traveled annually**

- **Eliminating 1.75 million MTCO<sub>2</sub>e** over the life of the project
- Expanding opportunities for thousands of more people to live near transit, as **10,000 new housing units** are already planned or underway adjacent to the Claremont and Montclair stations
- Improving regional mobility by **creating direct connections** for riders to/from the Montclair TransCenter (with existing stops for more than a dozen bus lines arriving from the Inland Empire and a new Greyhound stop), and to Claremont's 10 colleges/universities with tens of thousands of students, faculty and staff
- Providing a sustainable and reliable alternative for the nearly three million trips being made each day within and through this corridor - **only 3 percent are currently made by transit**

Since embarking on the Foothill Gold Line, LA County taxpayers have invested more than \$3 billion in building the Foothill Gold Line light rail system and have been promised completion of the line as part of LA County's Measure R (2008) and Measure M (2016). In 2009, the LA Metro Board unanimously approved making completion of the Foothill Gold Line and the K Line/Crenshaw Line first priority projects for non-federal New Starts funding. Just last month, Metro celebrated completion and opening of the first of those two projects - the K Line. Use of the state funding available through this TIRCP grant process can make completing the second of those priority projects a reality.

The cost to build these major infrastructure projects continues to rise every year. We must take advantage of this current state funding opportunity to fulfill the promise to county voters to complete the Foothill Gold Line.

We therefore respectfully urge your support of full funding to complete the Foothill Gold Line light rail project through this year's TIRCP grant program.

Yours truly,

CITY OF GLENDORA



Karen K. Davis, Mayor



Mendell Thompson, Councilmember and  
Foothill Gold Line Board Member

Cc: Stephanie Wiggins, CEO, LA Metro  
Habib F. Balian, Foothill Gold Line